Quality Assurance and Recognition

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Contents of the presentation

- Close link between quality assurance and recognition
- Main actors on European level
- Operational level: recognition of qualifications
Quality assurance – standards

• Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area
• Approved by the Bologna ministerial conference in 2005
• Drafted by ENQA in consultation with European University Association (EUA), European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE) and European Student Union (ESU)
Background information on ENQA

- European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- Umbrella NGO for European QA agencies
- 39 full members, 8 candidate members
- Structure: Board, General Assembly, Secretariat
- Co-operation with other European stakeholders: EUA; EURASHE and ESU
European Standards and Guidelines (ESG): three main parts

1) Internal QA within higher education institutions
   - Policy and procedures for QA
   - Approval, monitoring and periodic review of programmes and awards
   - Assessment of students
   - QA of teaching staff
   - Learning resources and student support
   - Information systems
   - Public information
European Standards and Guidelines (ESG): three main parts

2) External QA of higher education
   - Use of internal QA procedures
   - Development of external QA processes
   - Criteria for decisions
   - Processes fit for purpose
   - Reporting
   - Follow-up procedures
   - Periodic reviews
   - System-wide analyses
European Standards and Guidelines (ESG): three main parts

3) External QA agencies
   - Use of external QA procedures for higher education
   - Official status
   - Activities
   - Resources
   - Mission statement
   - Independence
   - External quality assurance criteria and processes used by the agencies
   - Accountability procedures
QA links to Lisbon Recognition Convention and its subsidiary documents

- International Access Qualifications 1999
- Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications 2001 (to be updated in 2010)
- Code of Good Practice in the Provision of Transnational Education 2001 (update in 2007)
- Recognition of Joint Degrees 2004
- ENIC/NARIC Charter of Activities and Services 2004
- Explanatory Notes on Completing Diploma Supplements 2007 (update)
Close link between quality assurance and recognition: operational level

- Co-operation between quality assurance agencies and recognition information centres on national and European level
- Information on the institutions and programmes that make up a national education system can be provided with reference to quality assurance
- Information concerning the status of the awarding institution important for recognition decisions
Global dimension

• How are European developments perceived in other parts of the world?
• Room for capacity building?
• Link to the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines on ”Quality provision on cross-border higher education” (2005)
  - Implementation of the Guidelines for higher education stakeholders
  - Information on the implementation?
Remaining issues

- Full use of UNESCO Conventions
- Co-operation between regional Committees and networks will facilitate recognition on a global level: more information, more trust
- Institutional level: how to ensure the full contribution of educational staff and students in securing and developing quality culture in higher education institutions?
More information

www.enqa.eu
www.enic-naric.net

Thank you for your attention!